City of Barrie
Report of the International Relations Committee
Tuesday, February 03, 2026 at 06:00 PM
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee

Present:
Co-Chair, Councillor, J. Harris
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw
J. Babcock
W. Hay
J. Massie
L. Palson
JM. Pigeon
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt
K. Watson

Absent:
T. Gardner
C. Hassey
A. Jones
G. Johnston

Staff:
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard
Manager of Business Development, L. Davidson

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw at 6:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Presentation concerning Invest Barrie's 2026 Foreign Direct Investment and Trade Activities

S. Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development, provided a presentation concerning Invest Barrie's 2026 Foreign Direct Investment and Trade Activities.

Ms. Schlichter discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Positioning Barrie as a Premier Destination for Investment;
- Invest Barrie's plans for Q1 2026, Q2 2026, Q3 2026 and Q4 2026;
- Opportunities for the Committee to engage and support Invest Barrie to attract investors to the city;
- Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Participation Overview; and
- German Mission Participation Overview.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Schlichter and L. Davidson, Manager of Business Development, and received responses.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Committee Budget Update

T. Maynard, Legislative Coordinator, provided an update concerning the Committee's budget.

3.2 Barrie International Partnership Website

S. Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development, provided an update concerning the Barrie International Partnership Website, including the site content.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Schlichter and they received responses.

3.3 Youth Ambassadors/Global Perspectives Program

There was no update provided concerning the Youth Ambassadors Program.

J. Babcock provided an update concerning the Innisdale Secondary School Global Perspectives Program. Mr. Babcock advised that applications are being accepted for the program, and that the submission deadline is February 20, 2026.

The Committee approved an expenditure up to $9,000.00 from the International Relations Committee budget to support the Global Perspectives Program 2026/2027 academic year.

3.4 Saginaw Michigan Update

S. Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development, advised that there was nothing new to report concerning the relationship with Saginaw, Michigan, and that she plans to follow up with Saginaw representatives.

3.5 Zweibrucken Germany Update

J.M. Pigeon provided an update concerning Zweibrucken, Germany. Mr. Pigeon advised that Zweibrucken, Germany, is in the midst of an election.

J. Babcock outlined the itinerary of the Barrie -Zweiibrucken Hockey Summit, scheduled between April 1, 2026, and April 9, 2026. Mr. Babcock advised that the Barrie Minor Hockey Association has been working hard to locate host families for the German hockey players. M. Sachkiw provided an update concerning the adult delegation visiting as part of the Barrie-Zweibrucken Hockey Summit.

The Committee approved an expenditure of $11,000.00 from the International Relations Committee budget to be paid as a donation to the Barrie Minor Hockey Association to support the Barrie-Zweibrucken Hockey Summit between April 1, 2026, and April 9, 2026.

3.6 Murayama Japan Update

M. Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning Murayama, Japan. Mr. Sachkiw advised that he has been invited to the Emperor's Ball in Toronto.

3.7 Harrogate United Kingdom Update

There was no update provided concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom.

3.8 Arras France Update

There was no update provided concerning Arras, France.

3.9 Sir Robert Barrie Project Update

There was no update provided concerning the Sir Robert Barrie Project.

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

CHAIRMAN